

## Newsletter Autumn 2016

### Welcome to our Autumn edition of the Martineau Gardens' Newsletter

Last issue we reported that we have raised enough funds to commence phase one of the building refurbishment work, over the winter. In preparation we bid farewell to Layla Tutt and artists; the Studio will become the office. The current location of the office will become our volunteer room, warm and cosy, it will also have resources for visitors, leaving the Pavilion clear to be renovated in our quiet months. We will do as much as we have money for, at this stage, but we will be in touch to ask you to help us to raise

funds which will mean we can complete the job. Our thanks to those of you who have brought us this far. A renovated Pavilion helps keep Martineau Gardens open and free for the people of Birmingham, read more on our website at <http://bit.ly/29R2p90>

It's been a tough year for bees nationwide, many of our bees died last winter. However thanks to our bee keeper John Gale's work as swarm co-ordinator, our new bees have worked hard and we have 55 jars of Martineau Gardens' honey for sale. So well loved is our honey, we will be limiting sales to a few jars per household, as long as stocks last.

**Caroline Hutton, Director**



*Batik inspired by Martineau Gardens, painted by Layla Tutt, hanging from an apple tree bower, near the orchard.*

### Diary Dates

#### Events

Sun 25 Sept, **Autumn Event**, 11am — 3pm free entry for Friends

Mon 31 Oct, **Stories on Halloween Night**, with Traditional Arts Team, 6pm advance ticket purchase recommended

Sat 12 Nov, Sat 10 Dec, Sat 14 Jan, **Winter working conservation parties (November to March), second Saturday of the month, 10.30am—3.30pm, free to take part - see for details of how to book on: <http://bit.ly/2cp2PW5>**

**Martineau Gardens AGM is this Autumn.**

*Information and ticket links via: [www.martineau-gardens.org.uk/events](http://www.martineau-gardens.org.uk/events)*

**Open:** Mon to Sat 10am - 4pm, except bank holidays. Entry is free except for special events.

### Lee's landscaping



Do you know where our walnut tree is? You could easily have missed it, but now, thanks to landscaping work dreamed up and undertaken by our apprentice Lee Davies, an area previously overlooked has been transformed with newly sown grass, tiny stumperies and new plantings. Look out for this new feature, close to the entrance of the Wildlife Area, next time you visit.

### Welcome to ...

We welcome new members of staff to payroll, Alec Middleton and Jane Bradshaw. Some of you will know Alec from his work hosting events and parties at the Gardens, in addition to this he will be doing minor building maintenance work. The role of administrator is vital to Martineau Gardens, to keep things running smoothly behind the scenes. We've been very fortunate to have Jane Summerton working as our administrator for the last 15 months, we've appreciated her hard work, her innovations around the office and not forgetting her dawn-sandwich making work on event days. When Jane left, Karina Johnson held the driving seat her calm and bright approach appreciated by all during a very busy summer and now we welcome Jane Bradshaw. *Pictured left, Lee beside the walnut tree.*

### What is Martineau Gardens?

Our Therapeutic Community Garden is looked after by volunteers, many of whom have

mental health issues or learning disabilities. Hundreds of school children visit the Garden to learn about science and the environment. Every year Birmingham people (now in their

thousands), visit the Gardens to enjoy its peace and tranquillity. We host events and courses and sell plants and produce.

## Good progress!



Whether it's a catalyst for pursuing studies, career development or simply getting confidence back after a knock back

Martineau Gardens is a place that enables people to change direction in their life for the better. We congratulate three volunteers from our Friday mornings who are taking up places to study catering and horticulture. Robyn, wrote to us recently to say: **"Thank you for giving me the chance to volunteer, I've learnt so much I can't wait to put it into practice at Cambridge University Botanic Garden. I would never have had the chance without your support."** *Pictured above, secateurs being prepared for a cuttings session, potted up seedlings and Miranda leading the group on heeling in fruit bushes.*



Just in case you missed our good news, we've won a Green Flag, for the seventh time. Green Flags are awarded by the Keep Britain Tidy environmental charity, find out more here: <http://bit.ly/29UNwaG> - this is a tribute to the hard work of all our volunteers. Thank you.

**New Friends welcomed** Reading this and not a Friend? Isn't it time you joined?! Join online via: <http://bit.ly/1D8rlab>

## Connect with us ...

How to contact us

Martineau Gardens, 27 Priory Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B5 7UG

T: 0121 440 7430 E: [info@martineau-gardens.org.uk](mailto:info@martineau-gardens.org.uk)

[www.martineau-gardens.org.uk](http://www.martineau-gardens.org.uk)

## What's on



Gathering apples for the Autumn Event (above); Storytellers from the Traditional Arts team



## Autumn Event and Halloween

Apple pressing, seasonal produce sales, children's wildlife activities, with Juliette our education officer, stalls and live music from local bands are some of the treats in store at our annual **Autumn Event on Sunday 25 September** from 11am – 3pm. There will be delicious home-made cakes, salads and sandwiches and other refreshments on sale inspired by the garden harvest. Resembling a family friendly 'green' fete, we do hope you'll be able to join us to celebrate the Autumn harvest and enjoy a relaxing time in the Gardens, Admission fee for the Autumn Event is £3, concessions £1, families £6 and free to Friends. This is followed by our final event of the year, **Stories on Halloween Night on Monday 31 October**, 6pm, with the Traditional Arts Team. Come (if you dare!) and be entertained with spooky tales, woodland walks in the shadows, flickering firelight and mugs of hot soup. Beware — this event sells out every year, so advance ticket purchase recommended.

**Information and ticket links via:**

[www.martineau-gardens.org.uk/events](http://www.martineau-gardens.org.uk/events)

## Could you run for us?

The Great Birmingham Run takes place on Sunday 16 October 2016 we would be very grateful if Martineau Gardens becomes your chosen charity.

[www.greatrun.org/great-birmingham-run](http://www.greatrun.org/great-birmingham-run)

